Achievements of DRDO in non-strategic areas

2519. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DRDO has made achievements in non-strategic areas; if so, has any report of such products been compiled by the DRDO; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government received the report of an expert Committee regarding profile of DRDO; if so, what were the mandates and the constitution of such Committee;

(c) who were the stakeholders consulted by the Committee and have the verbatim records of its meetings been annexed with the Report, if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) has the Government taken a view of the Committee's recommendation in the context of DRDO's documentation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has made significant achievements in non-strategic areas. This is regularly reported through Chapter 8 of Ministry of Defence Annual Report.

(b) to (d) The report has been submitted to the Government on 5th March, 2008. The Committee constituted by the Government included members from Academia, Industry, three Services and from S&T Organizations with Member Secretary from DRDO. The mandate has been to suggest measures for improving the functioning of Defence R&D Organisation *inter alia* Ministry of Defence and Services. The stake holders consulted by the Committee included senior officers of DRDO, Ministry of Defence and S&T Organisations. The report is being studied by the Government.

Sponsoring of journalists' tour by MOD

†2520. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tours of journalists are sponsored by the Ministry of Defence; and

(b) if so, the number of the journalists belonging to the print and electronic media sent on these tours during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2006-2007, 304 Print and 197 Electronic Media journalists were taken by the Directorate of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence for coverage of various Defence events at home and abroad. During the year 2007-2008 the corresponding figures are 246 and 196 respectively.

Functioning of IMA and NDA below their capacity

2521. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Military Academy (IMA) and the National Defence Academy (NDA) are functioning much below their capacity;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.